XXIII.—*Description of an apparently new Species of Ground-Hornbill.* By D. G. Elliot, F.R.S.E. &c.

Bucorvus pyrrhops.

Bill black, with an orange-coloured plate on the side of the maxilla near the base, as in *B. abyssinicus*. Casque rises from base of maxilla, extends backwards over the eye, and then curves forward, terminating in a round opening in front, similar to that of *B. abyssinicus*, but smaller. Space all around the eye, extending backward nearly to the occiput, bare of feathers, and also the skin beneath the feathers on the top of the head, at least upon the forehead, orange-red. Bare skin of the sides of the neck, beneath this orange-red colour, and throat dark blue; the gular sac is orange in front, orange-red behind; and this latter colour runs up for a short distance on the posterior side of the blue skin of the neck. Entire plumage of body lustrous black; the primaries pure white. Irides pearly white. Length of bill from the angle of the mouth 17 centims.; height of casque 2 centims.; height of bill without casque 5 centims.; tail 29 centims.; tarsus 14 centims. The bird is fully adult.

Hab. Region of the Congo, West Africa.

The specimen from which the above description is taken is now living in the Zoological Gardens at Rotterdam, and was brought to my notice by Mr. Keulemans, who, when lately in Holland, made a sketch of the head, which he sent to me. I am indebted to the Directeur, Monsieur A. A. von Bemmelen, for permission to describe it, as well as for the measurements, which he kindly sent me, taken from the living bird. This species seems to be most nearly allied to the *B. abyssinicus*; but, besides its smaller size, it can readily be distinguished from that well-known bird by the totally different coloration of the bare skin on the head and neck. From information which I have received since the publication of the second part of my Monograph of the Bucerotidæ, I am led to believe that there are probably four species at least of Ground-Hornbills. Professor Bocage writes me, in answer to a request for information regarding the specimens he had received from M. Anchieta from Angola, that without exception (and he had examined more than a dozen of the birds) there was *no trace whatever of the orange plate upon the maxilla.* The coloration of the bare skin of the head and neck is also very different, being entirely yellow mixed with orange or red in the males, and with a small lengthened dark blue spot at the angle of the mandible. A female had upon the gular pouch a large spot

of blue-black. The young had the bare skin yellowish red, without any admixture of blue. The measurements given by Prof. Bocage in the P. Z. S. 1873, p. 702, show that his examples are larger than the *B. pyrrhops*.

The four species may be distinguished as follows :—

A. With a coloured plate at base of maxilla.
  a. Casque curved, rounded on top, circular opening in front.
    a'. Bare skin of face and neck prussian blue, gular pouch scarlet ..... 1. *B. abyssinicus*.
    b'. Bare skin of face orange-red, of neck dark blue; gular pouch orange ..... 2. *B. pyrrhops*.
B. Without a coloured plate at base of maxilla.
  a. Casque nearly straight on top, oval opening in front; all the bare skin on head and neck yellowish orange or red, with a blue spot at base of mandible ..... 3. *B. guineensis*.
  b. Casque compressed laterally, entirely closed in front; bare skin all blue? ..... 4. *B. caffer*.

The distribution of the species is somewhat as follows:—

The *B. abyssinicus* is a native of Abyssinia and Sennaar in Eastern Africa. *B. pyrrhops* is from the region of the Congo, but the extent of its dispersion unknown, although it is proble that this district may be its southern limit, as the *B. guineensis* is found in Angola and the region north of Damaraland; and, lastly, the *B. caffer* is met with in Damaraland and the Zambesi district, and the country lying to the south as far as the Cape. The above distribution can only be given as approximately correct; for our present knowledge does not enable us to define the dispersion of any of the species in the interior of the continent, our acquaintance with most of them having been formed from the specimens obtained at different points comparatively near to the coast-line.

XXIV.—*On a Melobesian Form of Foraminifera* (Gypsina melobesioides, *mihi*); *and further Observations on* Carpenteria monticularis. By H. J. Carter, F.R.S. &c.

In my paper on the "Polytremata" ('Annals,' 1876, vol. xvii. p. 185, pl. xiii. figs. 18, 19) I have given a description and figure of a species of Foraminifera having a "*Melobesia*-like" growth, with a striking resemblance to *Polytrema* in the polygonal reticulation and foraminated interstices presented by the surface. And in my paper "On the Locality of *Carpenteria balaniformis*" (*ib.* 1877, vol. xix. p. 215,